

U.S. Naval Academy, Isherwood Shop, Building 104A  
Parker Road  
Annapolis  
Anne Arundel County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-329-8

HABS  
MD,  
2-ANNA,  
65/8-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND  
DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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I. Documentation for Building

A. Historic Name

The building has always been known as the Isherwood Shop Building or Building 104A.

B. Location

The Isherwood Shop Building is located immediately to the rear or northwest of Isherwood Hall at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland 21402. The Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates are: 18.371120.4315890.

C. Present Owner and Occupant

Unites States Government

D. Present Use

Isherwood Hall Shop is vacant and unused. Throughout its active life the building was used as a foundry and to house various pieces of machinery used to train midshipmen by the Department of Marine Engineering.

E. Significance

See item I. E. for Isherwood Hall.

## II. Historical Information

### A. Physical History

1. Date of Erection: 1905. Records of the Real Estate Department of the U.S. Naval Academy Public Works Office established this date.
2. Architect: Ernest Flagg. See II. A. 2. for Isherwood Hall.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: United States Government.
4. Building Contractor, Supplier: Built by Noel Construction, Baltimore, Maryland.
5. Original Plans: Public Works Archives of the U.S. Naval Academy, See IV. A. below.
6. Alterations and Additions: Extension of a Ship Model Towing Basin by Stehle, Bean and Bean, date unknown.

### B. Historical Context

See II. B. for Isherwood Hall.

## III. Architectural Information

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The Isherwood Shop Building is a utilitarian structure added to the rear of Isherwood Hall by Flagg in 1905 to house a foundry and some other mechanical equipment. Despite the mundane purpose of this structure it has a rather pleasing pavilion-like character, with its cast iron columned structure and extensive use of glass panels. It recalls on a small scale such nineteenth century mixtures of technology and formal architecture as Paxton's Crystal Palace and the buildings of Chicago's World Columbian Exposition. The emphasis of the corner piers by the clustering of four cast iron brackets to support the eaves in contrast to the single bracket at the thin pilaster which separates each bay is a nice touch.

2. Condition of the Fabric: Excellent although the interior remnants of old machinery are in some disarray.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: Rectangular 202' x 69'. One story with space amplified by the high tipped roof.

2. Foundation: Granite

3. Walls: Gray glazed brick 1' 3" thick walls set in English bond at lower half of the facade. The remaining upper half of the exterior walls is composed of vertical glass panels.

4. Structural System: Framing: Concrete clad cast iron columns and trusses.

5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: N/A

6. Chimneys: A drawing by H.R. Heinicke, Inc, of New York which is part of the original packet of Flagg drawings for the Shop shows a "perforated radial brick chimney" which appears to have been part of the forge. At current writing, there is a later metal chimney pipe at the center of the building and no brick chimney.

7. Openings

a. Doorways and Doors: Large sliding double wood doors in the northwest have a metal sign above reading "Entrance No. 7". It appears from Flagg drawings that wide sliding doorways, appropriate to industrial buildings of their day were used at the center of the southeast elevation and at the second and sixth bays of the seven bay northwest elevation.

b. Windows and Openings: Aside from the non-operable glass panels the only windows are the three light hinged windows above the panels. There are, of course, windows in the monitor.

8. Roof

- a. Shape, Covering: Monitored hippped roof covered with slate.
- b. Cornice, Eaves: Overhanging eaves are supported by cast iron brackets springing from a fascia below the hinged windows.
- c. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: N/A

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Consult the original Flagg plan of this large open space. (Flagg Drawing 7418A). The drawing shows a forge shop, coal bins, foundry, boilers, benches, and power hammers.
2. Stairways: N/A
3. Flooring: Concrete Slab
4. Wall & Ceiling Finish: Brick walls and asbestos tile ceiling.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and Doors: Sliding wood double doors.
  - b. Windows: Fixed glass panels on upper part of the walls surmounted by three light hinged windows. Monitor.
6. Decorative Features and Trim: N/A
7. Hardware: A few miscellaneous pieces of hardware connected with the foundry remain in the building. They can be seen in photographic documentation.
8. Mechanical Equipment: See "Isherwood Complex Documentation Appendix A" August, 1980, Survey of Existing Plumbing, Fire Protection, Electrical, and HVAC Systems by Shooshanian Associates, Consulting Engineers".

D. Site

1. General Setting and Orientation: As a rear addition to Isherwood, the Isherwood Shop Building lies along one the major axes of the Flagg Naval Academy; thus it follows the logical siting of an extension of Isherwood according to the principles of Beaux Arts planning.

2. Historic Landscape Design: N/A

3. Outbuildings: There is a low flat roofed brick structure of much later construction adjacent to the southwest side of the building.

IV. Source of Information

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

Naval Academy Public Works Archives, Cabinet #2, Packet D-15, Nos. 7418A, 7420A, 7421A, 7422A, and 1721. See "Isherwood Complex Documentation Appendix C: General Bibliography".

B. Early Views: N/A

C. Interviews: N/A

D. Bibliography:

See "Isherwood Complex Documentation Appendix C: General Bibliography".

E. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: N/A

F. Supplemental Material:

Naval Academy Real Estate Office Property Record Card 2-00125. See "Isherwood Complex Documentation Appendix C: General Bibliography".

V. Project Information

The Isherwood Shop Building is to be demolished in the autumn of 1981 to clear a site for the construction of a new multi-purpose assembly facility for the Naval Academy.

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